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ABSTRACT

Herbert Hoover became U.S. President in 1929, just months before the stock market crashed and the United States was flung into an economic depression. Harry S. Truman became U.S. President on April 12, 1945, after the death of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. While Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman disagreed on many political issues, their commonalities in life experience were the basis of their friendship. Both men came from humble beginnings in the midwest. After Truman's retirement, he and Hoover continued a friendship that lasted over 20 years. During his presidency, Truman had often called upon Hoover to help him with international and political issues. These educational materials are divided into six parts after the "Introduction":; (1) "Hoover Offers and Truman Accepts His Help" (Telegram from Herbert Hoover to Harry Truman, April 12, 1945; Letter from Truman to Hoover, April 19, 1945; Letter from Truman to Hoover, May 24, 1945); (2)"The Gridiron Club Dinner" (Hoover Address, May 10, 1947); (3) "Hoover Turns Down Offer to Be Keynote Speaker at the Republican Convention" (Ayer's Diary, March 24, 1948); (4) "Campaign of 1948: Truman Blames Hoover" (Truman Address, October 18, 1948; Truman Address, October 27, 1948); (5) "Personal Letters between Hoover and Truman" (Hoover to Truman, December 18, 1962; Truman to Hoover, January 5, 1963); and (6) "Truman's Eulogy." (BT)

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Hoover and Truman
A Presidential Friendship

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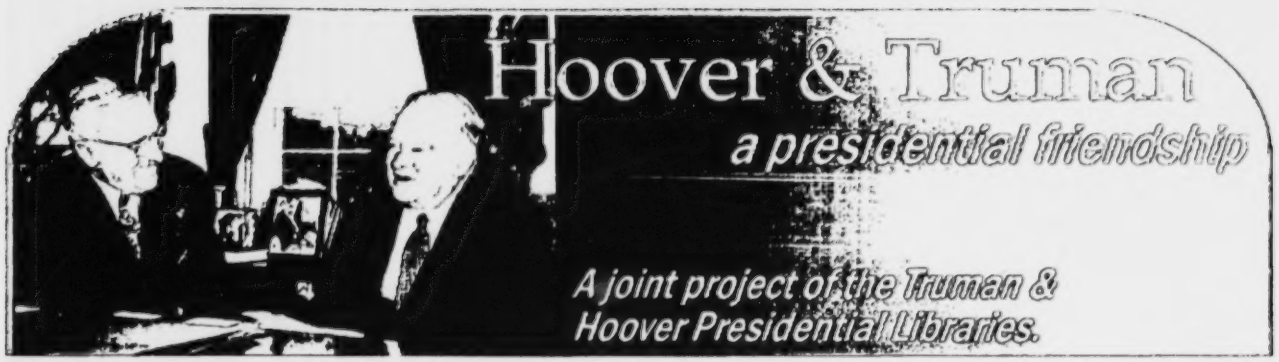

Educational activities

Introduction to Herbert Hoover and Harry S. Truman

After the power of the presidency was turned over to President Eisenhower, former President Truman headed home to Independence, Missouri. As Truman left the inaugural events, he greeted former President Herbert Hoover. Hoover said, "I think we ought to organize a former Presidents' club". At this point, Hoover was the only person alive who could understand what it was like to be the President of the United States. This bond helped to fuel a friendship that lasted over twenty years. While both men disagreed on many political issues, their commonalties in life experience were the basis of their friendship. Both men were brought up in humble beginnings in the Midwest. Hoover was an orphan by the age of 10 and Truman grew up on a farm. As adults, both men did quite well. Hoover became wealthy as an engineer in China, and Truman became a judge in Independence, Missouri.

Prior to becoming president Herbert Hoover, helped the people of Belgium get back on their feet after World War I. He was responsible for organizing the food effort in order to keep the people from starving. The work he did in Belgium helped jump-start his political career, and game him a platform to stand on for the bid of presidency.

Herbert Hoover became president in 1929, just months before the stock market crashed, and the U.S. was flung into an economic depression. President Hoover quickly became the scapegoat for the Great Depression. The Democratic Party took every opportunity to blame President Hoover for the economic conditions of the United States during the 1930s. When he left the White House in 1932, Hoover was ostracized from the political arena by FDR. Even when the United States entered into World War II, Roosevelt refused Herbert Hoover's offers to lend a hand in the crisis.

Harry S. Truman became president on April 12, 1945 after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Former President Hoover wrote to Truman offering support and help if needed. To Hoover's surprise, President Truman took him up on his offer. Europe was

suffering a famine as a result of the war and millions of people were likely to starve. Former President Hoover was just the man to help out with this situation. It was a job he had already succeeded at, and Truman felt that he needed Hoover's expertise. Although, they did not always agree on how to solve domestic problems or how to deal with foreign affairs; Truman and Hoover were willing to work together for the common good.

In February 1946, Truman asked the American people to conserve as much food as possible, so that the United States could help prevent mass starvation in Europe. After the war, the United States had plenty of food to feed not only U.S. citizens, but also people around the world. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was failing to adequately reach all of Europe. Once again, Truman called Hoover for help. Truman asked Hoover to travel around the world to evaluate the "hunger problem firsthand". Hoover, the new honorary chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee, estimated the world's immediate needs at eleven million tons of cereals and three million tons of fats. As Hoover toured the world, he met with leaders of different countries asking them to help support Europe by donating as much food as possible. Hoover persuaded the dictator of Argentina to donate 1.6 million tons of food. In the end, Truman expressed his appreciation to Hoover in the form of a letter.

Even after working so closely on a project as big as helping to feed Europe, both Truman and Hoover continued to disagree on politics. Hoover was very critical of Truman's use of Roosevelt's "totalitarian economic philosophy". However, Truman once again sent Hoover to Europe for another relief mission. This time it was Germany who needed help rebuilding their industrial economy.

In a very public gesture of respect, Truman restored Hoover's name to the dam on the Colorado River on April 30, 1947 (Roosevelt had changed the name to Boulder Dam). Ten days later at the Gridiron Dinner Hoover publicly complimented Truman on his "efforts and strength after the war".

As the election of 1948 grew nearer, Truman disagreed with the Republican controlled congress about reorganizing government. This created "an executive-congressional standoff". However, both sides agreed that Hoover should chair the new organization; thus creating the Hoover Commission. Hoover hoped to do away with many of the New Deal policies. The purpose of the Hoover Commission was to "make every government activity that now exists work efficiently...". With the election nearing, Hoover believed that President Truman would loose to Republican candidate Thomas Dewey.

During the campaign of 1948, Truman continually attacked Hoover, and once again blamed Hoover for the Great Depression. Hoover was the most recent Republican president, and the Hoover administration was not successful in dealing with the economic troubles of the times. This was a very easy way to attack the Republican Party and their "inability to run the country". However, if Hoover wanted to continue his position in politics he had no choice but to say nothing in return.

When Truman won the election, Hoover worried that the recommendations of his

commission would be ignored. However, Truman adopted about seventy percent of the commissions programs. These programs helped the government save billions of dollars.

As tensions increased with the Soviet Union, Truman called on Hoover to help with the controversy of "alleged infiltration of Communist into the U.S. government". Truman wanted to appoint Hoover to a bipartisan investigation commission. Hoover was "greatly troubled" and expressed his doubt that there were communists in government, and then went on to attack the foreign policies of the New Deal as damaging the U.S. government.

On December 20, 1950, Hoover publicly opposed Truman's plans to send U.S soldiers to aid the security efforts of NATO. He questioned whether or not the United Nations would be victorious in the Korean War. Hoover proposed several alternatives and said that there "would be an economic collapse at home if the United States took on the defense burdens of a selfish, self-centered Europe". Hoover felt that the United States needed to deal with the "real enemy": Moscow. While Hoover spoke of isolationism, Truman was going to war with Korea

In 1952, Hoover helped with the Robert Taft campaign, but when Taft lost to Dwight D. Eisenhower; Truman and Hoover found themselves on the same side once again. They both greatly disliked President Eisenhower. Throughout Eisenhower's administration, Hoover found himself disagreeing with his fellow Republican. He also realized that he was able to work better with Truman, the Democrat. It is not until Truman left office, that the true friendship started to develop. This is evident from the last letters they sent each other. Hoover thanked Truman for inviting him to the White House just months after Truman took the office. Truman was touched so much by the letter that he had it framed and hung it on the wall in his office.

The Hoover-Truman educational activities were created by Lindsay Peacock as part of the Truman Library internship program.

Hoover & Truman
A Presidential Friendship

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Part I. Hoover offers and Truman accepts his help

The following activity includes several letters, diary entries, and speeches documenting the friendship between Herbert Hoover and Harry S. Truman. Read through the documents and answer the questions, which follow after some of the documents.

1. **Herbert Hoover to Harry S. Truman April 12, 1945** – copy attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1945-04-12&groupid=5094&collectionid=hoover

The first communication between the thirty-first president and the thirty-third president was a brief telegram extending best wishes and support to the new president. Knowing little of Truman or his political philosophy, Hoover had no expectation that the new president would accept his veiled offer of service. But he could hope. Writing that month to a friend, Hoover noted that "now that there has been a change in Washington, I may be on the move often."

The President of the United States
Harry S. Truman
Washington, D.C.

All Americans will wish you strength for your gigantic task. You have the right to call for any service in aid of the country

HERBERT HOOVER

2. **Truman to Hoover, April 19,1945** - copy attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1945-04-19&groupid=5096&collectionid=hoover

President Truman responded to the former president's telegram with a brief, but significant note. Although the text is perfunctory, Truman added a hand written comment accepting Hoover's offer of assistance. Little did either man realize that this would be the beginning of a long collaboration.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Please accept my thanks for your message of the twelfth. I need not assure you that your good wishes are deeply appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,
/s/ HARRY S. TRUMAN

/s/ I assure you I shall feel free to call upon you. Thanks for the offer HST

3. **Truman to Hoover, May 24, 1945** – copy attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1945-05-24&groupid=5101&collectionid=hoover

Then came the letter that ended Hoover's twelve-year isolation from the White House. Because Truman was interested in meeting Hoover, who was not willing to come to the White House without an invitation, the president was willing to take the first step.

The White House
Washington
May 24, '45

/s/ My dear Mr. President:

If you should be in Washington, I would be most happy to talk over the European food situation with you.
Also it would be a pleasure to me to become acquainted with you.

Most sincerely,
HARRY S. TRUMAN

Questions

Use the three letters and information you know about the letters to answer the following questions.

1. When were the letters written?
2. Who wrote the first letter?
3. What were the intentions of the first letter?
4. What does the second letter tell you about Truman's intentions?
5. Why is Truman interested in talking to Hoover?
6. How long was Hoover away from the White House?
7. What are possible reasons Hoover was not invited to the White House?

8. Can you consider Hoover and Truman to be friends at this point?

9. What obstacles could prevent Hoover and Truman from becoming friends?

10. Many times it can be difficult to make new friends. Sometimes it just happens without any planning, but other times you really have to work at being friends with someone. Describe how you became friends with one of your close friends.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fullrate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1201

(28)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NB522 24=NWF NEWYORK NY 12 807P

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HARRY S TRUMAN=

WASHDC=

ALL AMERICANS WILL WISH YOU STRENGTH FOR YOUR GIGANTIC TASK. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR ANY SERVICE IN AID OF THE COUNTRY=

HERBERT HOOVER.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1. Telegram, Herbert Hoover to Harry S. Truman, April 12, 1945, extending best wishes and support to Truman upon Franklin Roosevelt's death. Papers of Harry S. Truman: President's Personal File.

President Harry Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1945

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Please accept my thanks for your message of the twelfth. I need not assure you that your good wishes are deeply appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Harry Truman

Honorable Herbert Hoover,
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel,
New York, N. Y.

assure you I shall
feel free to call upon
you thanks for the offer
I HST

2. Harry S. Truman to Herbert Hoover, April 19, 1945, thanking him for the telegram of the 12th and accepting Hoover's offer of assistance in the future. Papers of Herbert Hoover: Post-Presidential Files—Individual.

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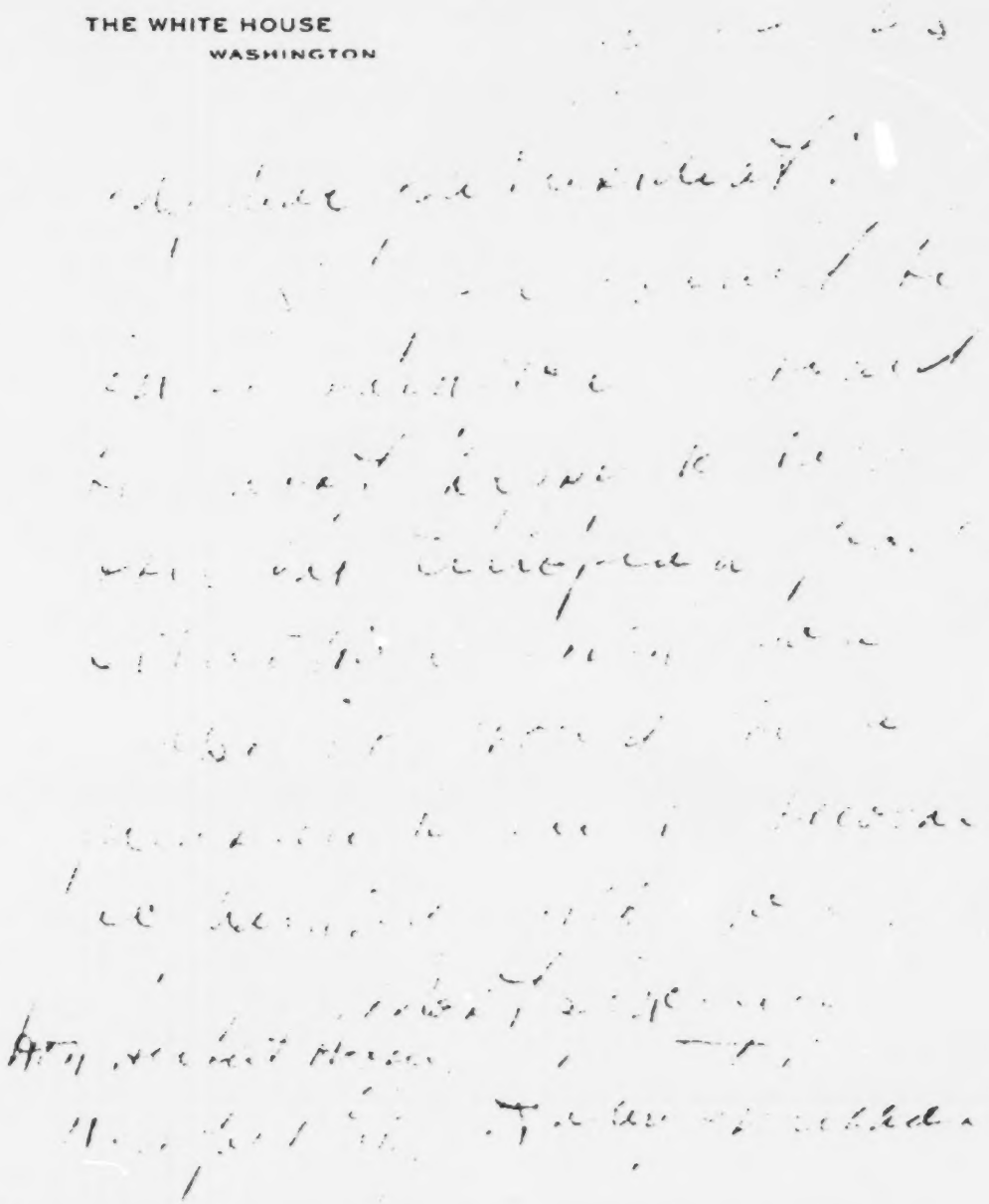
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3. Letter, Harry S. Truman to Herbert Hoover, May 24, 1945, formally inviting Hoover to the White House to meet Truman and discuss the food situation in Europe. Papers of Herbert Hoover: Post-Presidential Files—Individual.

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Part II : The Gridiron Club Dinner

- **Hoover Address, May 10, 1947** – attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?pagenumber=1&titleid=3862&tldate=1947-05-10&collectionid=hoover&PageID=-1&groupid=5247

Hoover returned to the annual Gridiron Club dinner on May 10, 1947, after an absence of fifteen years. The club was made up of prominent journalists working in the nation's capital and its annual dinner included a satiric look at the people and events in the news over the previous year. In line with the tradition of the Club's dinners, Hoover delivered rather light-hearted remarks that sympathized with the president. In response, the president penned an endorsement on Hoover's address: "With high esteem and keen appreciation to a great man, Harry S. Truman".

...I am not on your operating table tonight. But I can sympathize with Mr. Truman's difficulties in this matter as can no other man. I am fully aware of the skill and earnestness with which you cut up his ideology, his domestic and foreign policies. I can tell him, from long experience, not to look forward to much use of anesthetics...

And I wish to take the opportunity to say to you that President Truman has given high service to our county in repairing these dikes of safety which guard our national ideals. Moreover, amid the thousand crises which sweep upon us from abroad, he has stood firm with his feet rooted in the American soil...

Questions

Answer the following questions about the speech above.

1. When did Hoover's address take place?
2. Where did the address take place?
3. Who was invited to the dinner?
4. Why is former President Hoover the only man who could sympathize with Mr. Truman?
5. What does Hoover mean by this phrase: "amid the thousand crises which sweep upon us from abroad, he has stood firm with his feet rooted in the American soil..."?

6. By this time in his presidency, what crisis situations had Truman had to deal with? (hint see: www.trumanlibrary.org/truman-2.htm)

7. If you had the opportunity to publicly express how you feel about one of your friends, what would you say?

8. How can talking about a friendship publicly strengthen the friendship?

9. Describe someone you work well with but do not consider a friend. Explain why you work well with this person, but would prefer not to be friends with them.

GRIDIRON DINNER

WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 10, 1947

HERBERT HOOVER

MR. PRESIDENT, members of the Gridiron Club and your guests: I am deeply moved by your most generous reception.

My first Gridiron dinner was over thirty years ago when I was seated at the far end of the corner table. I had come to Washington to undertake a small mission for President Taft. In these thirty-five years I have been undertaking missions for every Democratic or Republican President—except one.

You are aware that I recently undertook a mission to Europe for President Truman. I am glad in this last skit that you have been able to find some humor in foreign affairs. Apropos of this there was a secret part of that last mission which I will now disclose to you. It seemed to me desirable to investigate whether there was any humor left in European statesmen. It would make our international relations

Part II - Address, Herbert Hoover, May 10, 1947, given at the annual Gridiron Club dinner, sympathizing with President Truman. Papers of Herbert Hoover: Articles, Addresses, and Public Statements.

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more endurable. Moreover, I hoped that we might at least get for the American taxpayer a few refreshing jokes as repayment for Lend-Lease and subsequent loans.

Finding little spontaneity anywhere, I tried force only once. A British Food Minister had been moaning at great length over the hardships of their monotonous diet. His grievance was very real, but to introduce a little lightness, I suggested that they could greatly improve matters by reforming that institution of British self-castigation—the eternal boiled potato. I went so far as to suggest their employing a few French or Belgian chefs to teach them how to cook a potato, at least for official banquets. His response was that we should discuss only matters of importance to the laboring classes.

I had no luck for some time, although some of the statesmen along the Iron Curtain shook my hand smilingly and looked me straight in the pocketbook.

I, however, persisted in my quest through the thickets of innumerable conferences with top officials of many countries. I had no tangible results until I came to the most tragic city

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of all the world—Vienna. There I found an official who really wanted to help.

To illustrate the problem from which his country was suffering, he described a meeting of the three — Bevin, Byrnes and Molotov. Secretary Byrnes had taken out his plain silver cigarette case, and Bevin, noticing it carried an inscription, read aloud: "To James Byrnes, from his devoted friends in the South Carolina Legislature."

Bevin remarked that he also had received such a gift and produced his plain silver case upon which was inscribed: "To Ernest Bevin, from his devoted friends in the British Labor Party." Under the protocol of appeasement Molotov accepted a cigarette from both of them.

A little later on, Molotov took out his own solid gold and bejeweled case, but, under the same protocol, offered no solace, to his colleagues. However, they observed that the inscription on his case read: "To Prince Esterhazy, from his devoted friends of the Jockey Club of Vienna."

I am not on your operating table tonight. But I can sympathize with Mr. Truman's difficulties

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in this matter as can no other man. I am fully aware of the skill and earnestness with which you cut up his ideology, his domestic and foreign policies. I can tell him, from long experience, not to look forward to much use of anaesthetics.

The last time I spoke to the Gridiron Club was just after the Republican defeat in 1932. On that occasion your speakers referred to the outgoing Administration in those appreciative tones which politeness and tradition require for the dead. You may need to search your barrel of sermons for that one again. Also at that time, I sought to comfort my colleagues by emphasizing the high importance in the democratic process of their forthcoming position as the opposition party. But to elaborate these themes would be an indelicate implication that I am seeking a recruit to my exclusive union of ex-Presidents.

At that dinner in 1932 I spoke also of the aid and comfort a President received from an opposition Congress. Mr. Truman no doubt has realized during the past six months that they put more emphasis on the advice end of their

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constitutional relations than upon the consent end. Here again I can sympathize with Mr. Truman more deeply than any other living person. However, he has not yet probed the depths of their capacities in these directions.

Mr. Chairman, our country is most fortunate in that partisanship does not reach such depths of hate and bitterness among responsible men as those which now infect much of this distracted world. In this connection, in closing, may I again use the image which I summoned to you in that address of 15 years ago. I said:

> The life stream of our nation is the generations of millions of human particles acting under the impulse of freedom of advancing ideas and religious ideals gathered from a thousand springs. These rills have grown into great streams which have nurtured and fertilized this great land over centuries. Its dikes against dangerous floods have been cemented with the blood of our fathers.

I continued:

> What is said in this or that political campaign lasts no longer than the ripples or angry whirls in that stream. But God help

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the man or group who breaks down those dikes of safety or diverts these channels of progress to selfish ends. These waters will drown them in a tragedy that will be remembered over a thouand years. I said that what counts toward the honor of public officials is that they sustain these freedoms. these channels of national ideals and their dikes of safety. From this labor lies not alone the glory of those officials who attend them, but the future of civilization. Under such officials our children will strengthen these dikes. will create new channels of progress and our land will grow greater and richer in their lives.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to have this opportunity to say to you that President Truman has given high service to our country in repairing our broken dikes of safety which must guard our national ideals. Moreover, amid the thousand crises which sweep upon us from abroad, he has stood firm with his feet rooted in the American soil. He has brought to the White House new impulses of good will toward men.

Gentlemen, I have received from your dinners over the years much political education. I

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am grateful to you for the ability and earnestness of your instruction. Some of you may be skeptical of the results. But I have, with time, at least profited by your special prejudice against long speeches. That lesson has been rubbed in because in the past year I have listened to more long speeches in more languages than anyone not in the United Nations. Therefore, it is both a duty and a pleasure to close this address quickly by thanking you for your hospitality and your most kind expressions.

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Part III. Hoover turns down the offer to be the keynote speaker at the Republican Convention

- **Ayer's Diary, March 24, 1948** – attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1948-03-24&groupid=5192&collectionid=hoover

As the chairman of a non-partisan commission on government reorganization, Hoover vowed not to take any substantive part in the presidential campaign of 1948. When he agreed to appear at the Republican National Convention in June, he made it clear that he would not deliver the keynote speech or attack the president. Hoover passed this message on to Truman through presidential press secretary Charles Ross. Based on this entry in the diary of Eben Ayers, at least some of the president's aides would have preferred that Hoover take a leading role in the campaign.

March 24, [1948] Wednesday

Charlie Ross told the president at our staff meeting this morning that he had lunch with former President Herbert Hoover yesterday, at Hoover's invitation. He said Hoover sent word to the president that the Republicans wanted him to deliver the keynote speech at their national convention this summer but that he had refused. He said he had great respect for the president and would not attack him. He said he probably would speak at the convention, but it would be on some abstract subject such as human rights.

[Clark] Clifford and some of the others laughingly expressed regret that he was not going to be the Republican keynoter as they felt it would be a help to the Democrats. This led the president to comment that sometimes you can be too nice to a person....

Questions

Use Ayer's Diary entry to answer the following questions.

1. When and where did this event take place?

2. Why did Hoover refuse to give the keynote speech?

3. Why would it be a help to the Democrats if Hoover spoke at the Republican National Convention?

4. Why did President Truman comment "that sometimes you can be too nice to a person..."

5. How has being too nice affected one of your friendships?

6. If you were in Truman's position, how would you respond to this information?

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telephone and McGrath said they were not coming, that Mead did not want the job. He said Mead was disgruntled because he did not get the job he wanted. This is expected to be the last chance he will have.

Later we gave out as a White House statement, a statement prepared with the approval of Secretary Marshall to the effect that the United States had decided to postpone indefinitely the date, tentatively about July 1st, for transfer of control in Germany from military to civilian authority.

So later home for dinner and in the evening. A heavy downpour fell through much of the evening.

March 24th, Wednesday.

Charlie Ross told the President, at our staff meeting this morning that he had lunch with former President Herbert Hoover yesterday, at Hoover's invitation. He said Hoover sent word to the President that the Republicans wanted him to deliver the keynote speech at their national convention this summer but that he had refused. He said he had great respect for the President and would not attack him. He said he probably would speak at the convention but it would be on some abstract subject, such as human rights.

Clifford and some of the others laughingly expressed regret that he was not going to be the Republican keynoter as they felt it would be a help to the Democrats. This led the President to comment that sometimes you can be too nice to a person.

Clifford had a statement that had been submitted with the idea of having the President issue it, telling of the increased consumption of grain by the distilleries since allocation controls were removed. [redacted] The question was raised if it would not be better for Secretary of Agriculture Anderson to issue the statement, rather than the President and Connally said the [redacted] liquor men would have no objection if Anderson did it but that they might not like it if the President did. It was suggested that it be discussed with Anderson and Senator McGrath, chairman of the Democratic national committee.

The revolt against the President and his renomination seems to be spreading with some of the Jewish leaders in Jewish districts of New York city sounding off because of the reversal of the U.S. position in support of the Palestine partition. The President commented that with the Southern revolt, the Brooklyn revolt, we [redacted] ought now to lose the distilleries and do something to lose the farmers and then we'd be all fixed.

Despite all this the President seemed in excellent condition and spirits. He was good-natured and exuberant and there was no indication that he is worried or disturbed over the situation. And I do not think he is. I think he feels just as Senator Hatch expressed it yesterday when he was quoted as saying that the President had told him he intended to fight through to a finish and that he intends to do what he thinks is right without regard to its effect on him politically.

Part III - Diary entry, Eben Ayers, March 24, 1948, regarding Hoover's involvement with the upcoming Republican National Convention. Papers of Eben Ayers—Truman Library.

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The President had the usual appointment list today and at 3:30 this afternoon an off the record conference with the Secretary of State and advisers on the Palestine question. Among those who were present were Loy Henderson, director of the State Department's division of Near Eastern and African Affairs; Dean Rusk, of the Office of Political Affairs of the department; David Niles, administrative assistant to the President; Charles Ross, Matt Connally, Clark Clifford and others. The discussion was largely concerned with the question of whether the President should issue a statement on the Palestine situation or not and it lasted for some time.

--

Home for dinner and in the evening.

March 25th, Thursday.

We held our regular staff meeting at 9 o'clock and then returned at 10 for the customary pre-press conference briefing session during which we went over as many as possible of the questions we thought likely to come up at the conference.

Clark Clifford worked last night and again this morning with state department people on a proposed statement for the President and he brought this in to the session for discussion and decision as to whether it should be used by the President or not. The President read the statement aloud. Connally objected; he felt it was too labored and not in simple enough language. David Niles also objected to the form of it, feeling that it did not accomplish its purpose and that it could be "shot full of holes." The President, however, made the decision and said he would use it.

The conference brought an unusually large crowd -- about 172 were counted -- and the President opened it by reading the statement, which follows:

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

It is vital that the American people have a clear under-
anding of the position of the United States in the United Nations
garding Palestine.

This country vigorously supported the plan for Partition
th Economic Union recommended by the United Nations Special Committee
Palestine and by the General Assembly. We have explored every possi-
lity consistent with the basic principles of the Charter for giving
fect to that solution...Unfortunately, it has become clear that the
rtition plan cannot be carried out at this time by peaceful means.
could not undertake to impose this solution on the people of
lestine by the use of American troops, both on Charter grounds and

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Part IV. The Campaign of 1948: Truman Blames Hoover

- **Truman Address, October 19, 1948** – attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1948-10-19&groupid=5193&collectionid=hoover

Truman, fighting for his political life in the fall of 1948, seemed to face insurmountable odds. The Republican nominee, Thomas E. Dewey, was far ahead in the polls and Truman's Democratic Party was badly divided. To rally voters, Truman attacked and ridiculed all things Republican- including his new "friend", Herbert Hoover.

Truman made a stinging attack on Hoover in a speech delivered at the North Carolina State fair grounds in Raleigh. Destined to be known as the "Hoover cart speech" for its reference to old automobiles being pulled by mules because their owners couldn't afford to buy gas.

"...Nowhere in the United States this year have I seen a single exhibit of that famous North Carolina farm invention-that product of ingenuity and hard time, of personal despair and political mockery-the Hoover cart.

You remember the Hoover cart-I didn't find that in Iowa, or anywhere else-The remains of the old tin lizzie being pulled by a mule, because you couldn't afford to buy a new car, you couldn't afford to buy gas for the old one.

You remember. First you had the Hoovercrats, and then you had the Hoover carts. One always follows the other. Bear that in mind now, carefully.

I know that you good people of North Carolina are not responsible for the Republicans in the 80th Congress. But we can all learn a lesson from them. They have given us a sharp warning of what the Republican Party stands for today. And their record shows that the Republican Party stands for the same thing today that it did under Herbert Hoover.

That is the record on which the Republican Presidential candidate wants to be elected that is the one on which he wants to be unified... I don't think you want to take another chance on the Hoover brand of Republicanism."

- **Truman Address, October 27, 1948** – attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1948-10-27&groupid=5194&collectionid=hoover

Little more than a week after he attacked Hoover in Raleigh, Truman mounted the stage at Mechanics Hall in Boston and repeated the exercise. Although he

made no references to Hoover carts, the speech pulled no punches. Truman referred to Hoover as an engineer who "backed the train all the way into the waiting room and brought us to panic, depression, and despair." It was the ridicule in such remarks that stung Hoover. As Rickard noted, Hoover thought Truman to be "unpredictable, recalling that after his nice personal notes to H.H., he slammed him in Boston speech." What was politics for Truman was treachery to Hoover.

"...Here in Boston, you still stand among the Nation's foremost fighters for freedom and against intolerance.
Now, many of you recall that campaign of 1928, when Al Smith ran for President against that well-known engineer-Herbert Hoover. He was one engineer who really did a job of running things backward.
That campaign of 1928 was one of the most shameful political campaigns in our history...
The leaders of the Republican Party served notice on America then and there that they would stop at nothing in order to gain power.
Don't think that the elephant has changed his habits in the last 20 years. This Republican elephant is not that kind of elephant. They're trying to make you believe he has that new look, but he hasn't...
I have often thought what a different and better world we would have had if Al Smith had been elected President.
But that didn't happen. And the great engineer we elected backed the train all the way into the waiting room and brought us to panic, depression and despair...
I say to you people of Boston that if Al Smith-and not Herbert Hoover-had been chosen President in 1928, we and the world would have been spared untold misery and suffering...
After the Republicans had made such a mess of our domestic welfare and world security, we brought to the Presidency, Franklin D. Roosevelt.
Under Roosevelt's leadership, we licked the Hoover depression, we rebuilt a strong America, and we won the greatest war in all history."

Questions

Answer the following question about Truman's Oct 19th and Oct 27th address.

1. When and where did the first and second address take place?
2. What was the purpose of both addresses?
3. What is a Hoover cart?
4. What happened during Hoover's presidency that Truman is making a reference to?

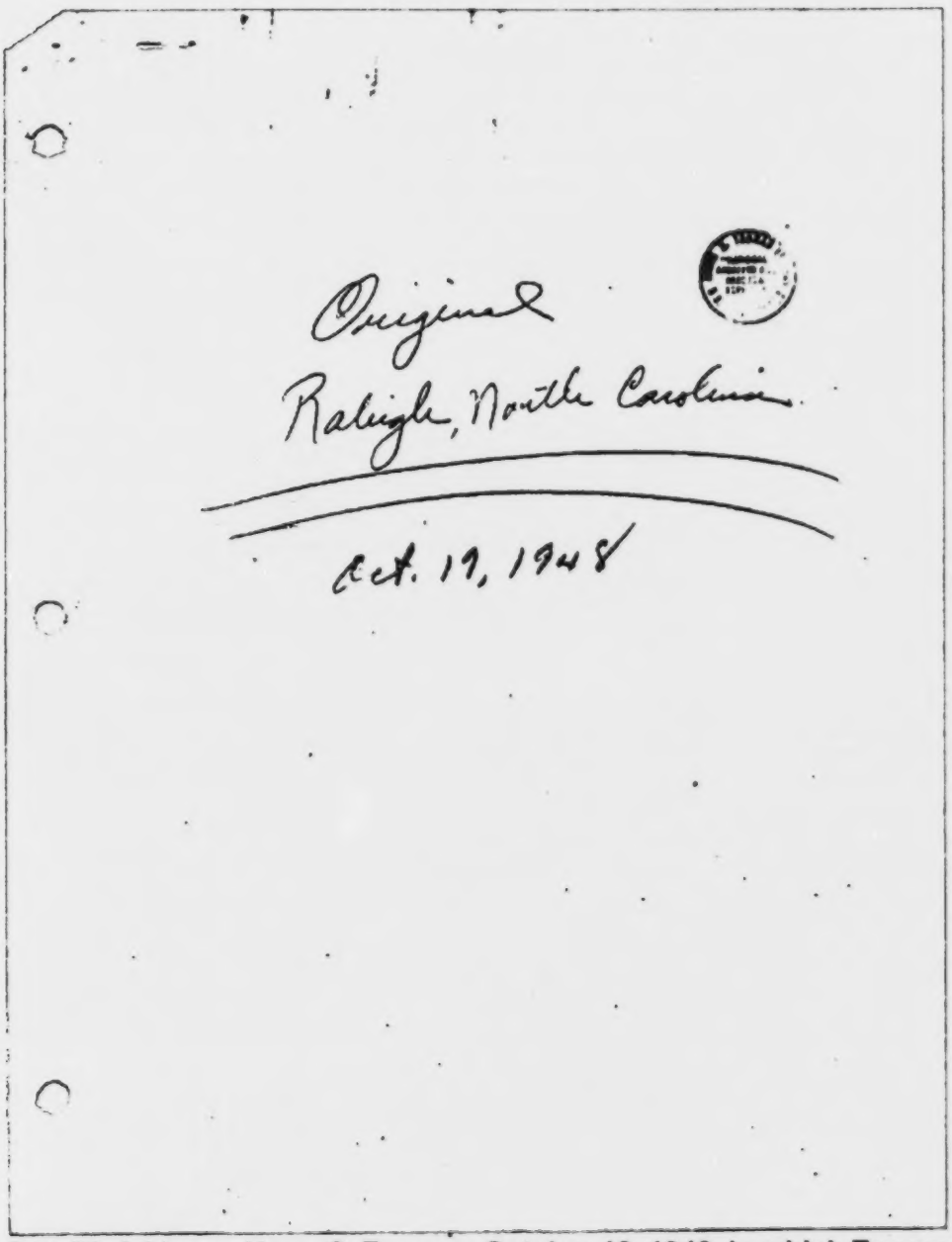
5. Who ran against Hoover in 1928?

6. After hearing Truman talk, what do you think the status of their friendship is? Why?

7. Considering what you know from the Ayer's dairy entry, how do you think Hoover will respond to Truman's attacks?

8. If you were Hoover, how would you respond to this situation?

9. If you were a friend of Hoover, what would you say to Truman about the public attacks?



Part IV- Address, Harry S. Truman, October 19, 1948, in which Truman excoriated Hoover and the Republicans at a campaign stop in Raleigh, North Carolina. Papers of Harry S. Truman: President's Secretary's Files.

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RALEIGH

Introduction by Pres. Hon. Scott
Candidate for Sen. Priscilla Cranfton

Kenneth Royal, Army
Lindsey Warren Cont. Gen
Lauren Caudle Asst. Gen
Jim Ueff Dir. Budget
Chas Tremplay
David Stone

MAX GARDNER.
Wanted to mention all the N.C.'s in Gov't to be all day.

For a long time now, some of my North Carolina friends have been telling me I ought to take a look at this great State Fair of yours.

It wasn't necessary to urge me very much. I have always liked to attend fairs.

But now I do have one complaint. Now they make me one of the exhibits and I don't get a chance to look at the others very much.

Hope have a fine

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This fall I have visited several State Fairs. I met thousands of prosperous farm folk there, and it made me proud of the grand old Democratic Party to see so many farmers who had been rescued from Republican depression and given the break they deserved.

Not long ago I had to roll into the Fair at Oklahoma City at a speed of fifty miles an hour. That was because I stopped to talk to so many people along the way my train was late. But the train-crew, being good Democrats, saw to it that I got there ~~on time~~. I'm surprised the Republican candidate didn't order them shot at sunrise.

Out in Dexter, Iowa, I met a great farm gathering for the national plowing contest. And we plowed under some Republicans while we were at it.

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I also got a chance to look over some of the fine new farm machines they were exhibiting. And I want to report to you that among all the exhibits I have seen there has been a great omission.

Nowhere in the United States this year have I seen a single exhibit of that famous North Carolina farm invention - that product of ingenuity and hard times, of personal despair and political mockery:

The Hoover cart.

You remember the Hoover Cart - the remains of the old tin lizzie being pulled by a mule because you couldn't afford to buy a new car or gas for the old one.

You remember.

First you had the Hoovercrats and then you had the Hoover carts. One always follows the other.

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By the way, I asked the Department of Agriculture about at Washington ~~to check up the pedigree of~~ this Hoover cart.

The report from the Bureau of Animal Husbandry was very brief: ~~Grade~~

Sired, they said, by a Republican and damned by a Scalawag.

They said it is ~~The result they said is~~ the only automobile in the world that eats oats. They don't recommend it.

Neither do I.

I don't mind much being an exhibit here myself.

I think I belong right here. I'm a home-grown American farm product.

That product is found the same in North Carolina and in Missouri.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

And I'm proud of the ~~boood~~ people I represent -

the completely unterrified form of American democracy.

I stand for the simple, straight-forward, straight-line

Democratic Party.

That Party has always stood for Government

in the interest of the farmer and the working man

and for all the people of this great country.

And anytime you have any doubts about the

Democratic Party all you need to do is take a good look

at the Republican Party.

That will always bring you right back.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

This year we've all had a good look at the Republican Party and their candidate, and it's made me fighting mad. That's why I'm here today talking to you good people of North Carolina.

This year the Republicans are putting on a terrific advertising campaign in order to sell you the same old brand of Hoover carts. They're spending money in carload lots and are buying themselves all kinds of strange bedfellows. But there are some things that are not for sale in this country.

I don't believe they're going to get away with it. Everybody - South and North - knows that there's only one choice in this campaign.

Either the standard Republicans will buy the election or the standard Democrats will win.

Other parties simply don't stand a chance.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

For a Southerner that ought not to be a hard choice. You know what Republicanism means in North Carolina and everywhere else in the South.

First it meant rule by the carpet-baggers. Then it meant rule by the money-baggers. Either way it means a rule that treats the South and the West as colonies to be exploited commercially and held down politically.

Republicanism means that the Federal Government is controlled by the powerful men and the greedy Wall Street interests that want cheap labor and cheap farm products.

Republicanism puts the almighty dollar first and is not above using a little tidelands oil money to grease the way to power.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Today big money Republicanism is on the march and to beat it we've all got to stand together.

That's where we Democrats belong - together - shoulder to shoulder.

We are the great middle-of-the-road party - the party of the farmers and the workers and the small businessmen and the party of the young people.

We all belong together.

I believe in loyalty as the great force in politics - the loyalty of free men and women, freely given and honorably received.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

But above all I treasure the basic principle of democracy itself - the right to disagree among ourselves, without letting differences of opinion lead us into temptation to betray our own best interests.

That is why I do not worry too much about the many violent arguments we Democrats have.

I think that there will be plenty of Democrats on election day as long as we retain respect for free speech and get a fair and honest count at the polls.

Just the same, I hope that somewhere in North Carolina you have a Hoover cart on display. Lest you forget that the Republicans want you to take another ride in the same old wagon.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In the Nineteen Twenties, the Republican Party could not fight depression. It was incapable of bold action for the people. The Big Business owners of that dismal Party said there was nothing to do but "ride it out".

Great
You did - in Hoover carts.

Today, the Republican Party stands convicted of being incapable of fighting inflation.

Some of its present leaders have tried to put the blame for inflation on farm prices.

Repeat
They want you to ride it out again - in Hoover carts.

It was under a Democratic Administration that Hoover Carts gave way to real automobiles with plenty of gasoline in them.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Here at a great agricultural fair let's look at your agricultural record in North Carolina in the Democratic years behind us.

Your old-time money - crops are doing all right. Last year your tobacco brought you Three Hundred and Eighty Million Dollars.

In the Hoover year of Nineteen Thirty-two, your tobacco brought you only Thirty-six Million Dollars.

The price of tobacco got down to eight and one-half cents in the Republican depression.

This year it is running close to fifty cents.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

You don't depend on cotton as much as you used to. But you're getting more than three times as much money for your cotton as you got in either the Republican depression year of Nineteen Thirty-two or the Republican "boom" year of Nineteen Twenty-nine.

Your cash receipts are running eight times what they were in Nineteen Thirty-two.

You didn't make that trip in a Hoover cart.

This year your milk and eggs alone are worth almost as much as your total farm production was worth in Nineteen Thirty-two.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

And what I say of North Carolina is true of the whole advancing South in the years since the Democrats came to office in Washington under Franklin Roosevelt.

It was the Democratic Party that rescued agriculture in North Carolina, in the South, in the whole United States.

The Democratic farm program treated credit as a farmer's tool instead of a rich man's toy. We made credit available to farmers on fair terms for the first time in American history.

The Democratic Party inaugurated the Nation-wide soil program.

The Democratic farm program brought you rural electrification.

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Back in Nineteen Thirty-five only about three farms out of a hundred in North Carolina had electric service. Today the figure is about seventy in every hundred. And when the REA loans that are already approved are turned into actual power lines, eighty out of every hundred North Carolina farms will have electricity.

The Democratic farm program brought you crop insurance.

The Democratic farm program expanded and intensified scientific research.

The Democratic Party brought you support prices.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Democratic farm program and the hard work of American farm families rescued agriculture from its sickness and made it strong again.

Because of this, our agriculture was a source of strength to the Nation when we had to fight a war. When our lives and our freedom depended upon it, our agriculture was equal to the task.

Thanks to the Democratic Party, this is your story - the story of progress from the depths of despair to the heights of strength. You have a highly productive, efficient, and profitable agriculture because you used the Democratic farm program and your own hard work to make it so.

But today the wreckers are at work.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Republican Party for years fought the Democratic Party farm program. When they saw it couldn't be changed, then they changed tactics. Republican spokesmen now are saying -

"me, too, only we can do it better."

What they mean is, they can do you better.

Two years ago the Nation gave the Republicans their chance in Congress.

The Republicans immediately slashed the soil conservation program. In fact, the Republicans in the House of Representatives voted to wipe out the Agricultural Conservation Program altogether. This was also a vote to kill the farmer-committee system that operates your program of price supports and tobacco quotas.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

We beat this outrageous attack on self-rule in farming, but the Republicans did cut the Agricultural Conservation Program in half.

They cut the rural electrification program.

They undermined the Commodity Credit Corporation.

They killed the International Wheat Agreement.

They crippled the reciprocal trade agreements program on which the foreign markets for your tobacco and cotton depend.

They subjected farm co-operatives to a fear campaign under threat of a death tax. They cut the budget for the new research and marketing activities.

They tried to kill the farm tenant purchase program.

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Now, despite the belated protestation of the Republican candidate, they are showing that they want to alter and destroy the whole structure of price supports for farm products. Even the Republican Chairman of the Senate committee on Agriculture has warned that an effort is being made to make the farmer the "goat" for high prices in the United States.

This attack on the price support system comes at a time when many farm prices are dropping and the price support program is of the greatest importance to the farmer and to the United States.

The Democratic Party originated the farm price support program. We built it out of hard experience. We built it for the benefit of the entire Nation - not only the farmer, but the consumer as well.

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The purpose of price supports is to prevent farm prices from falling to ruinously low levels. But the Republicans don't tell the city consumers that these supports apply only when farm prices have dropped below parity. They don't tell the people in the cities that everybody is really better off when the farmer gets decent prices.

The support price for wheat is not responsible for the high cost of bread.

When wheat prices were going up, the price of bread rose steadily. It went up from ten cents a loaf to eleven cents - to twelve cents - to thirteen cents - to fourteen cents.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Now wheat prices have fallen a dollar a bushel.

But the price of bread has not come down one cent.

It's the same with cotton.

Nobody can blame the cost of a shirt on the cotton ~~in it.~~ that goes into it

~~The price of tobacco is infinitesimal in the cost of cigarettes.~~ The cost of the tobacco in a cigarette is very - very small - a fraction of a cent.

The truth of the matter is that by encouraging the record production of the last few years, the support program has actually kept consumer prices down.

Those who are wilfully trying to discredit the price support system don't want farmers to be prosperous. They believe in low prices for farmers, cheap wages for labor, and high profits for big corporations.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

That is what they call "efficiency."

You cannot dodge the issue.

You stand for the Democratic farm program or you stand for the Republican wrecking crew of the 80th Congress.

You stand with the Democratic Party or you stand against it.

You stand with the Democratic Party or for all practical purposes you stand with the Republican Party.

You stand for continuing progress of all our people, or you stand with those who for so many years thought farmers and Southerners should be content in a colonial status and on a second class economic level.

I know that you good people in North Carolina are not responsible for the Republicans in the 80th Congress. But we can all learn a lesson from them.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

They have given us a sharp warning of what the Republican Party stands for today. And their record shows that the Republican Party stands for the same thing today that it did under Herbert Hoover.

That is the record on which the Republican Presidential candidate wants us to be unified.

He has endorsed the record of the 80th Congress which began the scuttling of the Democratic farm program. He is running on a platform that endorses the record of the 80th Congress. He is going around the country asking people to reelect the worst members of the 80th Congress. He says he is proud of the 80th Congress.

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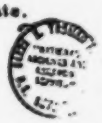
The Republicans ask you to vote for them but they don't care whether you vote for the Republican candidate or for a third, fourth or fifth party candidate. They know that a vote for any third or fourth or fifth party candidate is the same as a vote for the Republican candidate.



They hope they can fool enough of the people this time to capture the election by wasted Democratic votes.

I don't think you want to take another chance on the Hoover brand of Republicanism.

I don't think you have to be hit on the head twice to know who hit you the first time.

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I don't think you are going to be the victims this time of the old Republican doctrine - "If you can't convince them, confuse them."

I think you know who your real friends are and who your enemies are.

I feel pretty sure that in Nineteen Forty-eight, the South is not hankering for another ride in a Hoover cart.

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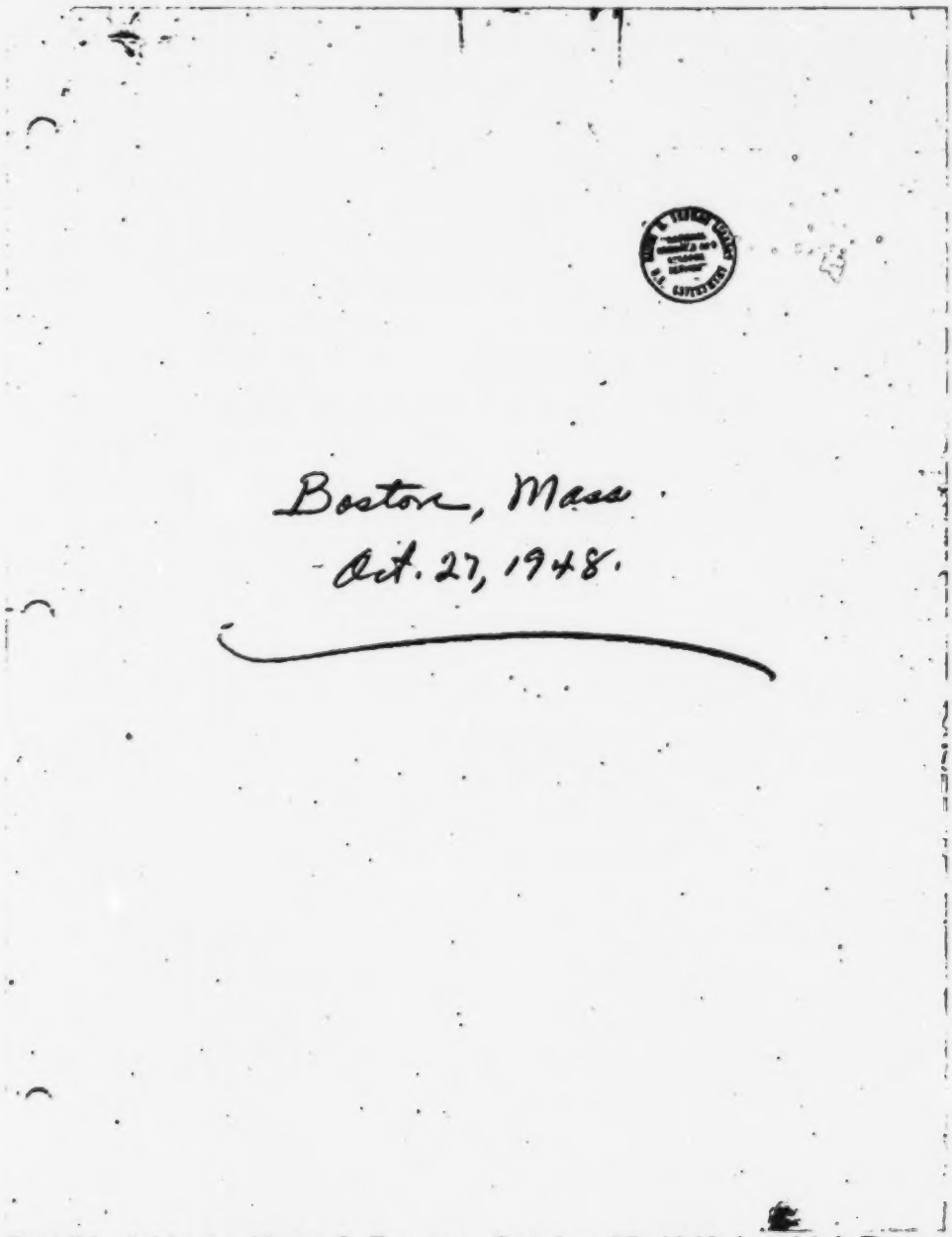

Part IV - Address, Harry S. Truman, October 27, 1948, in which Truman again strongly criticized Hoover and the Republicans in Boston. Papers of Harry S. Truman: President's Secretary's Files.

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10-27-48

BOSTON

Thank you, my good friends and fellow-citizens.

Twenty years ago another Democratic candidate for President came to Boston. He was that great, outstanding American:

Alfred E. Smith.

You gave him a tremendous reception. And when the cheers had subsided, he took all of you to his heart with one phrase. He said,

"It's good to come home."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

I know how Al Smith felt.

For Massachusetts is home to every American who loves freedom and trusts the people.

From the first days of our Nation, the spirit of the men and women of the Bay State has impressed upon American life the love of freedom and the hatred of tyranny.

Even before the end of the American Revolution, Massachusetts freed her slaves - all of them - not for any one race because the people held that liberty was indivisible. ordered.

And here in Boston you still stand among the Nation's foremost fighters for freedom and against intolerance.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Many of you recall that campaign of Nineteen Twenty-eight, when Al Smith ran for President against that well-known engineer - Herbert Hoover. He was one engineer who really did a job of running things backward.

The campaign of Nineteen Twenty-eight was one of the most shameful political campaigns in our history.

A vile whispering campaign was spearheaded by the Ku Klux Klan and Klan-minded people to discredit Al Smith.

The Republican appeal was based on religious prejudice because of Al Smith's Catholic faith.

The leaders of the Republican Party served notice on America then and there that they would stop at nothing in order to gain power.

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Don't think that the elephant has changed his habits in the last twenty years. The Republican elephant is ~~He's~~ not that kind of animal.

That Al Smith campaign of Nineteen Twenty-eight was fought with different arguments from those we hear today. But, fundamentally the issue was the same:

That is - the rights of all the people against special privileges for the few.

I have often thought what a different and better world we would have had if Al Smith had been elected President.

But that didn't happen. And the great engineer we did elect backed the train ~~clear~~ although into the waiting room and brought us to panic, depression, and despair.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Here At home, we had boom and bust.

In our dealings with other countries, we had Republican high tariffs, political isolation and economic confusion - forces that helped bring on World War Two.

I say to you people of Boston that, if Al Smith - and not Herbert Hoover - had been chosen President in Nineteen Twenty-eight, we and the world would have been spared untold misery and suffering.

Unfortunately, there was no mechanical Republican substitute for Al Smith's great heart. No engineering equivalent could be found for his moral courage, his passion for justice, and his love of humanity.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

After the Republicans had made such a mess of our domestic welfare and world security, we brought to the Presidency a Democrat; that courageous leader and great humanitarian:

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Under Roosevelt's leadership, we licked the Hoover Depression; we rebuilt a strong America, and we won the greatest war in all history.

I am proud to have had a part in Roosevelt's great fight for the rights and liberties of humanity.

At the end of the war, in Nineteen Forty-five, the people of this country were more prosperous than ever before. The Democrats had planned it that way.

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And in spite of the scorn and derision which Republicans in Congress expressed about Government planning, that planning paid off.

Labor was stronger than ever before.

The farmers were more secure than ever before.

Business was making more money than ever before.

Our homes and our earnings were protected against inflation and rising prices.

We seemed to be headed for a period of safe and wholesome progress in this country.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

But, in November Nineteen Forty-six, we suffered a misfortune which now threatens to destroy our hopes and our safety with a new wave of blind and selfish reaction.

Two years ago, when it was the responsibility of the people to elect a new Congress, millions of Americans failed to vote. And the result was the notorious Republican 80th Congress - the Congress that owes its election to Democrats who didn't bother to vote.

You know the record of that Congress.

You know how it refused to deal with inflation and how it let prices keep on rising.

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You know how it failed to provide low-rent housing and how it remained faithful to its slogan of,

"Two families in every garage."

You know how it played the game of big business lobbies at Washington and how it shackled labor with the Taft-Hartley Law.

And now, the Republicans tell us that they stand for unity.

In the old days, Al Smith would have said, "That's baloney."

Today, the Happy Warrior would say, "That's a lot of hooey."

And if that rhymes with anything, it is not my fault.

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They made their great mistake when they decided that the election of Nineteen Forty-six was a mandate to destroy the New Deal.

Two years ago the people lost control of the Congress.

Control passed to big business & special privilege, the owners of the Republican Party. Big Business special privilege has only one idea - to charge all that the traffic will bear.

Through the action of the 80th Congress, they have given you warning of worse things to come.

But less than a week from now, you will have a chance to ~~take back~~ regain control of your government. You can end elect a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

There will never be a time in your life when you can spend two hours to better advantage than by voting on ~~this~~ election day — Nov. 2.

For more than your prosperity hangs on the result of your decision.

The peace and freedom of the entire world depend on the courage and imagination of a people's government at Washington.

Yesterday, the free peoples of the world were threatened by the black menace of Fascism. The American people helped to save them.

Today, the free peoples of the world are threatened by the red menace of Communism.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

And again, the American people are helping to save them.

I think that I speak for every loyal American - Democrat and Republican alike - when I say that we detest what the Communists stand for, and what they have done to free peoples under their control.

If the people of some other country freely choose a communist form of government, that is their own business.

But we don't want a communist government in the United States.

And if the people of other countries don't want communism, we don't want to see it imposed upon them against their will.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

We have been taking positive and successful action, everywhere in the world, to halt the threat of Communism.

There are some Republicans who have been trying to make you believe that your Government is endangered by Communist infiltration.

That is a plain and malicious falsehood. lie

But it is not a new form of attack.

The Republican candidate for President in Nineteen Forty-four, who is trying again this year, said here in Boston that Franklin Roosevelt was soliciting the support of Communists. He said that the Communists were seizing control of the New Deal.

Those statements were absurd and ridiculous.

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They were just as absurd as the reasons this same Republican candidate gave in Nineteen Forty-four as to why the New Deal could not provide jobs after the war. Ask him about that now.

Ask him how many jobs there are today. He was going to blame us if there were no jobs. See if he will give us credit for the sixty-one million people working today.

You might ask him at the same time about how many jobs the Republicans were providing in Nineteen thirty-two.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

All of this Republican talk about Communism in Nineteen Forty-four and again this year is in the same pattern with their appeals to religious prejudice against Al Smith in Nineteen Twenty-eight.

They are afraid to go before the American people on the merits of the policies they believe in.

So, they try to distract the people's attention with false issues.

Get this straight.

I hate Communism.

I deplore what it does to the dignity and freedom of the individual.

I detest the Godless creed it teaches.

I have fought it at home.

I have fought it abroad.

I shall continue to fight it with all my strength.

That's an issue on which I shall never surrender.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The truth of the matter is,

the Communists are doing all they can to defeat me

and help my Republican opponent.

Let's ~~Just~~ look at the facts.

The Communist Party of the United States

is today supporting a third party candidate in an effort

to defeat me.

In state after state, the Republicans have worked

to get this Communist-supported candidate on the ballot -

in order to defeat me and with me,

the party of the people, who want no share of this unholy alliance.

You can see the Republican point of view - it's

anything to get votes.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

But you may wonder why the Communists, with their supposed hatred for Capitalism, are working night and day for the victory of the Party of Big Business.

I'll tell you why.

The Communists don't want me to be President because this country, under a Democratic Administration, has rallied the forces of all the democracies of the world to safeguard freedom and to save free people everywhere from Communist slavery.

Our goal is peace.

It is our conviction that peace in this atomic age is an absolute necessity. But only a peace that is based on human rights and freedom will be a lasting peace.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

I propose to keep on doing my best to win a lasting peace.

This must be done, not only for America, but for people everywhere.

In March of last year, I announced a fundamental decision of your Government, designed to preserve the freedom of the world. In stating that Doctrine, I said:

"It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

Our first step under that doctrine was to give economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey - two countries right under the shadow of Communist domination.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The whole world knows of the success of this policy.

The Communists will never forgive me for that.

This was only the first step in a broad program to check the spread of Communism.

The next step was the European Recovery Program.

Known as the Marshall Plan

You have heard of the heartening results which are now being achieved under this program in sixteen European countries. Not only are hungry people being fed. But industries have been reconstructed and farms restored and railways and mines set in order.

As a result of these wise measures, the European Recovery Program is driving back the threat of Communism.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

And the Communists will never forgive me for that.

Let's take three European countries:

Italy, France and Germany, to see why the Communists

hate your President so bitterly.

Our aid has given Italy a new lease on freedom.

Our aid has helped rally decisive popular support

for the freely elected Government of Italy.

It has shown the Italian people that they can solve

their economic problems under democracy.

What would have happened in Italy without our help?

I think we all know.

The salvation of Italy from Communist tyranny

is one of the great achievements of our recovery program.

For that the Communists will never forgive me.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Our aid has also been a bulwark of free democracy in France. There, as throughout Europe, we are using our economic strength to raise the living standards of the people, and thus to avoid the danger of a Fascist reaction or a Communist tyranny.

The Communists hold that against me, too.

In Germany, we have taken the frank and firm position that Communism must not spread its tentacles into the Western Zones.

We shall not retreat from that position.

We shall feed Berlin, and the people of Germany will be given their chance to work out a decent life under a democratic government.

The Communists hold that against me, too.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

As an American, as well as your President,
I resent the contemptible Republican slur that charges me
with being "soft" where Communist tyranny is concerned.

Under your Democratic Administration,
the people of the United States have thrown themselves
wholeheartedly into the support of freedom and democracy
against the predatory pressures of Communism.

Our sustained, unprecedented world-wide fight
against the spread of Communism has brought new hope to
people everywhere.

On the strength of that record,
it is clear why the Communists would like to bring about
my defeat, and elect a Republican President.

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But I am surprised that the Republican Party should lend assistance to this Communist intrigue.

Let me remind you that the Communist Party in this country reached its maximum strength in Nineteen Thirty-two, under a Republican President, Herbert Hoover.

Communism thrives on misery. Human suffering nourishes the Communist menace. That menace withers away where there is prosperity and justice and tolerance.

The real threat of Communism in this country lies in the danger of another major depression.

The real threat of Communism lies in widespread unemployment and arrogant injustice, such as we had in Nineteen Thirty-two.

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The real threat of Communism in this country grows out of the Republican policies of the 80th Congress - policies which threaten to put an end to American prosperity.

The real threat of Communism in this country grows out of the submission of the Republican Party to the dictates of big business, and its determination to destroy the hard-won rights of American labor.

You can fight Communism with a clear-cut vote to defeat Republican reaction.

Reactionary Republican policies invited Communism in Nineteen Thirty-two.

We were saved then, but we cannot afford to take the risk again.

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If the Republican candidate wants to rid the country of Communists - and I believe he has some of them right in his own state of New York - he ought to begin by shaking off the hand of reaction which now has a stranglehold on Republican policies.

But somehow, I don't see him doing that.

It all falls into the same old Republican pattern - appeal to the passions of prejudice and intolerance - and hope to get the votes.

All I can say is, I'm proud to be a Democrat.

We are engaged in a great crusade - a crusade for freedom - for tolerance - for the rights and welfare of all the people.

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This fight is Al Smith's fight.

It is Roosevelt's fight.

And now it is my fight.

More than that, it is your fight.

I'm proud to be making this fight with you for the things we believe in.

With your help, your courage and your enthusiasm, we are going to win this fight on Nov 2.

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Part V. Personal letters between Hoover and Truman

- **Hoover to Truman, December 19, 1962** – see attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1962-12-19&groupid=5271&collectionid=hoover

On December 19, 1962, Herbert Hoover wrote one of the most personal letters of his long life. In a few short paragraphs, Hoover captured the essence of his productive friendship with Truman. It is an extraordinary letter, especially from a man as private and formal as Hoover.

The Waldorf-Astoria Towers
New York 22, New York
December 19, 1962

Dear Mr. President:

I have received your book. It is a real contribution to the American people, and I greatly treasure its inscription. Indeed, it goes into the file of most treasured documents.

This is an occasion when I should like to add something more, because yours has been a friendship, which has reached deeper into my life than you know.

I gave up a successful profession in 1914 to enter public service. I served through the First World War and after for a total of about 18 years.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor came, I at once supported the President and offered to serve in any useful capacity. Because of my varied experiences during the First World War, I thought my services might again be useful, however there was no response. My activities in the Second World War were limited to frequent requests from Congressional committees.

When you came to the White House within a month you opened the door to me to the only profession I knew, public service, and you undid some disgraceful action that had been taken in the prior years. For all of this and your friendship, I am deeply grateful.

Yours faithfully,
/s/HERBERT HOOVER

- **Truman to Hoover, January 5, 1963** – attached and at http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hoover/internaltemplate.html?tldate=1963-01-05&groupid=5128&collectionid=hoover

Hoover's letter overwhelmed Truman. In fact, he was so proud of Hoover's comments that he had the letter framed and placed on a credenza behind his desk at the Library. In a brief, handwritten note, he wrote of his appreciation.

Independence, Missouri
Jan. 5, 1963

/s/Dear Mr. President:

You'll never know how much I appreciated your letter of Dec. 19, '62. In fact I was overcome, because you state the situation much better than I could.

I'll quote you, "For . . . your friendship, I am deeply grateful."

Most sincerely,
HARRY S. TRUMAN

Questions

1. When were these two letters written?
2. What do we learn about Truman and Hoover's relationship?
3. What did Truman and Hoover gain from this friendship?
4. How do we know that this letter meant so much to Truman?
5. Describe a friendship were you have different views on a topic.
6. How do different ideas or philosophies affect your friendships?
7. What are the benefits of having a friend who hold views that differ from your own?
8. How can two people remain friends if they do not agree on topics that they feel are very important?
9. What topics/issues do you agree with your friends on and what topics do you disagree on?

HERBERT HOOVER

The Waldorf-Astoria Towers
New York 22, New York
December 19, 1962

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For all of this and your friendship, I am deeply grateful.

Yours faithfully,

The Honorable Harry S. Truman
Independence, Missouri

Part V - Letter, Herbert Hoover to Harry S. Truman, December 19, 1962, professing Hoover's deep thanks and appreciation for Truman's friendship through the years. Papers of Harry S. Truman: Post-Presidential Files.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Jan. 5, 1963

Dear Mr. President:-

You'll never know how much I appreciated your letter of Dec. 19, 62. In fact I was overcome, because you state the situation much better than I could.

I'll quote you, "For ... your friendship, I am deeply grateful."

Most sincerely

Hon. Herbert Hoover,
New York City,
N.Y.

Harry Truman

Part V - Letter, Harry S. Truman to Herbert Hoover, January 5, 1963, thanking Hoover for his letter of the 19th of December and for their continued friendship. Papers of Herbert Hoover: Post-Presidential Files.

Part VI. Truman's Eulogy

Truman Eulogy, June 1965

Eight months after the death of his friend, Truman published the following eulogy as the preface to a pictorial biography entitled Herbert Hoover's Challenge to America, His Life and Words (Waukesha, Wisc., 1965). It was a personal and moving tribute to an extraordinary partnership and friendship.

My warm and close friendship with President Herbert Hoover dates back to the day he visited Washington, shortly after I succeeded to the Presidency. I was never among those who held President Hoover accountable for the economic disaster of the late 20s. And, while I did not see eye to eye with him on many of the basic domestic and foreign issues, I have held him in high respect as a devoted public servant and a great humanitarian.

It was in this higher calling that I was moved to invite him back into public service in the hope that he might resume the task of again feeding the hungry, in the wake of the frightful devastation visited on so many human beings in many parts of the world. I wanted to help restore as quickly as possible friend and foe alike to their normal lives and to peaceful pursuits.

President Hoover did not hesitate, nor did he weigh the matter of personal convenience and even hardships. He accepted at once. The meeting between him and me at the White House is now history. His work in feeding the hungry expressed the care and generosity of all Americans, regardless of political differences.

President Hoover and I have visited each other frequently and whenever either of us happened in the neighborhood of the other, we felt free to just drop in. President Hoover helped in the dedication of the Library in Independence, Missouri, and I was glad to take part in the dedication of his Library at West Branch, Iowa. Briefly put, he was my friend and I was his.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
Independence, Missouri
June 1965

Activity

Write a letter of reference for a friend describing their character, achievements, qualities, and activities that you enjoy doing together. Explain why this person is a "good" friend and why you would recommend this person as a friend to anyone else. Also, be honest about challenges in the friendship.

The Hoover-Truman educational activities were created by Lindsay Peacock as part of the Truman Library internship program.

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
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